

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 271505Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8199
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3702

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SF, US
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND TO THE CITIZEN ARTICLE ON EGLIN-
BUTHELEZI-AAI CORRESPONDENCE

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1934

1. CONGEN CAPE TOWN HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON THE
BACKGROUND TO THE JULY 26 SEGMENT OF THE CITIZEN SERIES ON
"THE SECRET U.S. WAR AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA" (REFTEL) CONCERNING
THE EGLIN-BUTHELEZI-AAI CORRESPONDENCE.

2. SUMMARY. AIDA PARKER, OF THE CITIZEN NEWSPAPER, INFORMED
PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY (PRP) LEADER COLIN EGLIN OF INTENTION
TO PUBLISH CORRESPONDENCE WHICH SHOWS EFFORT IN 1973 BY
AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE TO BLOCK A PROPOSED AFRICAN TOUR
BY EGLIN WITH "COLORED" LEADER DAVID CURRY AND ZULU LEADER
CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI. END SUMMARY.

3. DURING CONGENOFF'S CALL ON PRP LEADER COLIN EGLIN JULY 25
TO DISCUSS POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENTS (SEPTTEL), EGLIN
COMMENTED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED LETTER FROM AIDA
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PARKER, AUTOR OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN THE CITIZEN ENTITLED
"THE SECRET US WAR AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA" WHICH ANNOUNCED
HER INTENTION TO PUBLISH CORRESPONDENCE DATING FROM 1973
AMONG EGLIN, WILLIAM COTTER OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE (AAI)
AND CHIEF MINISTER OF ZULULAND CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI WHICH
SHOWS EFFORT BY AAI TO DISCOURAGE AN AFRICAN TOUR BY EGLIN,
BUTHELEZI AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE (COLORED) LABOR PARTY

DAVID CURRY. IT WAS PUBLISHED JULY 26 (REFTEL). EGLIN SAID PARKER'S LETTER INCLUDED COMPLETELY ACCURATE TYPEWRITTEN COPIES OF THE ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

4. ACCORDING EGLIN, IN MID-1973 HE LEARNED OF AAI INTENTION TO SPONSOR TRIP BY BUTHELEZI AS SOUTH AFRICAN REP TO AAI CONFERENCE IN ADDIS ABABA. EGLIN WROTE TO COTTER, PROPOSING A JOINT VISIT AND SUBSEQUENT TOUR OF OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES BY HIM, CURRY AND BUTHELEZI AND ASKING IF AAI WOULD APPROVE OR WOULD AT LEAST ACCORD EGLIN AND CURRY OBSERVER STATUS. EGLIN ALSO NOTED IN LETTER THAT HE HAD WRITTEN TO MORRIS TEMPELSMAN, AN ASSOCIATE OF COTTER'S, TO SEEK HELP IN GETTING VISAS TO VISIT TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND THAT HARRY OPPENHEIMER WAS ALSO PROVIDING ASSISTANCE. EGLIN SAID HE RECEIVED SHORT AND CURT REPLY FROM COTTER MERELY SAYING THAT AAI COULD NOT NAME EGLIN AND CURRY AS CO-DELEGATES AND THERE WAS NO PROVISION FOR OBSERVER STATUS. EGLIN SAID SUBSEQUENTLY HE LEARNED FROM BUTHELEZI THAT COTTER WROTE BUTHELEZI WARNING THAT IF HE ACCEPTED PROPOSAL TO TOUR WITH WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN, EVEN A "LIBERAL" SUCH AS EGLIN, HE WOULD LOSE ALL CREDIBILITY IN BLACK AFRICA. THEREFORE, IF BUTHELEZI DECIDED ACCEPT EGLIN PROPOSAL, AAI WOULD WITHDRAW ALL SPONSORSHIP OF BUTHELEZI'S TRAVEL.

5. EGLIN SAID THAT IN FALL OF 1973, SUNDAY EXPRESS NEWS-PAPER (WHOSE THEN-EDITOR JOHNNY JOHNSON IS NOW EDITOR OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CITIZEN) OBTAINED COPIES OF THE CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLISHED GIST OF THE STORY. PAPER ALLEGED THAT STORY HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM PRP "SYMPATHIZER" IN AAI OFFICE IN US. EGLIN RESPONDED AT THAT TIME TRYING TO MINIMIZE IMPORTANCE OF INCIDENT BUT WITHOUT DENYING THAT THE EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE HAD TAKEN PLACE. HE SAID COTTER LATER INFORMED HIM THAT INFO CAME NOT FROM "PRP SYMPATHIZER" BUT FROM A TRIP COTTER MADE TO LESOTHO FOLLOWING THE ADDIS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HIS BRIEFCASE, CONTAINING ALL THE CORRESPONDENCE, TURNED UP "MISSING" FOR 2 DAYS WHILE TRANSITING JAN SMUTS AIRPORT IN JOHANNESBURG. EGLIN SAID IT SEEMED OBVIOUS THAT CORRESPONDENCE WAS COPIED BY OPERATIVES OF SAG'S BUREAU OF STATE SECURITY (BOSS). WITH REGARD AIDA PARKER SERIES, EGLIN SAID IT WAS "ASSUMED THAT BOSS WAS SOURCE OF MUCH OF HER INFORMATION "SINCE IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE" THAT SHE LIVING WITH A KNOWN BOSS AGENT.

6. EGLIN SAID HE RESPONDED TO PARKER'S LETTER, MERELY NOTING THAT THE STORY HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN 1973, THAT HE HAD RESPONDED AT THAT TIME TO JOHNNY JOHNSON, AND THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD NOW. EGLIN IS OBVIOUSLY STILL NETTLED BY AAI RESPONSE TO HIS PROPOSAL. WHILE NOT RELISHING PROSPECT OF "THE CITIZEN"

AGAIN RAISING CHARGE THAT BUTHELEZI AND HE ARE SUBJECT TO
"DICTATES" OF AAI, HE WAS AWARE THAT HE COULDN'T PREVENT IT
AND THAT TO COMMENT FURTHER WOULD ONLY DRAW MORE ATTENTION
TO IT.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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